(c) whether Government propose to pressurise China to stop military aid being provided to Pakistan continuously as a result of which there is an increase in violence in Kashmir ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq kms in the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Argeement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq kms of Indian territory in Pakistan occupied Kashmir to China.

(b) and (c) Government of India is committed to the development of friendly and good neighbourly relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual sensitivity to each others concerns and equality.

Government remains concerned at certain aspects of the China-Pakistan relationship which adversely affect our security. This includes Sino-Pak defence cooperation including in the nuclear weapons and missile development programme. We have made known our concerns to the Chinese side.

Government remains vigilant and takes all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.

Indo-U.S. military co-operation to de-escalate Indo-Pak tension

214. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as part of a plan to de-escalate tension between India and Pakistan along the LoC, Washington has suggested a proposal for the ambit of Indo-U.S. military co-operation to be expanded to allow U.S. special forces to operate in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether officials of both the countries have been seriously evaluating this proposal;

(c) whether this proposal was also discussed during U.S. Defence Secretary's visit to India in the month of June, 2002; and

(d) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Closure to training camps in PoK

215. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken up the issue of closure of Training Camps in PoK with the American officials; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to make sure that the build up to the elections in Jammu and Kashmir goes down peacefully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

The United States has conveyed to Government President Musharraf's pledge to the United States on an immediate, visible an permanent end to cross-border infiltration and his assurance to dismantle terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

(b) Steps taken by the Government in recent months to check infiltration and fight terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, and its engagement with the international community in this regard, will continue to be in place till there is a permanent cessation of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan, which is necessary to ensure peaceful conduct of free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir.